

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A surfactant composition₁ comprising:
 - i) 1 to 10 wt.% of at least one polyoxyalkylene branched non-ionic surfactant₁; and
 - ii) 1 to 10 wt.% of at least one surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water;wherein the ratio of the at least one polyoxyalkylene branched non-ionic surfactant to the at least one surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water is in the range from 0.05 to 20:1.
2. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the branched polyoxyalkylene non-ionic surfactant comprises a branched alkyl group comprising in the range from 12 to 20 carbon atoms.
3. (Original) A composition according to claim 2 wherein the branched alkyl group comprises in the range from 0.2 to 3 side-branches.
4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the side branched groups are alkyl groups comprising in the range from 2 to 9 carbon atoms.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the polyoxyalkylene group is a homopolymeric polyoxyethylene chain containing in the range from 15 to 25 ethylene oxide residues.
- 7-8. (Cancelled).
9. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water comprises a non-alkoxylated polyol ester.
10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9 wherein the polyol is an anhydro-saccharide and/or the ester is derived from a fatty acid comprising in the range from 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

11. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 9 wherein the surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water additionally comprises a polyol ester derived from a saccharide.

12. (Original) A composition according to claim 11 wherein the saccharide is sucrose or sorbitol, and/or the ester is derived from a fatty acid comprising in the range from 8 to 18 carbon atoms.

13. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water comprises a mixture of a sorbitan ester and a sucrose ester or a sorbitol ester.

14. (Original) A composition according to claim 13 wherein the surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water comprises a mixture of sorbitan stearate and sucrose cocoate or sorbitol laurate.

15. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the HLB value of (i) the branched polyoxyalkylene non-ionic surfactant is in the range from 13 to 18, (ii) the surfactant capable of forming liquid crystals in water is in the range from 4 to 8, and (iii) the total surfactant composition is in the range from 8 to 12.

16-20. (Cancelled).